

REMARKS

The Office Action sets forth a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121.

Specifically, the Office Action stated that:

Group I (claims 1-13 and 20-33) are drawn to temporarily reducing electrical current at least through a particular electrode in a path from which an increase of electrical resistance is detected, to a stepped down level, in response to said detection;

Group II (claims 14-17) are drawn to lowering and increasing the voltage difference in response to reductions and increases in the measured flow speed respectively, so that the voltage difference remains sufficient to attract substantially all of a contaminant to reach the first or second electrodes;

Group III (claim 18) is drawn to selecting a time point when the polarity is reversed dependent on the cumulative charge when the measured cumulative charge reaches a predetermined threshold value; and

Group IV (claim 19) is drawn to regulating a power dissipated in the soil by adjusting of a duty cycle with which current is delivered to the electrodes, the cycle comprising periods of at least thirty seconds during which no current is supplied.

In response to the Office Action, applicants elect, without traverse, the claims of Group 1, namely claims 1-13 and 20-33, for further prosecution in this application. Applicants reserve the right to present the non-elected claims in this or any other appropriate application.

CONCLUSION

The application is now in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, in the opinion of the examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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